

## AFRL, academia couple to develop computer forensics

by *Francis L. Crumb, Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate recently entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Utica College to advance the state-of-the-art in computer forensics.

Under the agreement, an exchange of information between the directorate and the college's Computer Forensics Research and Development Center (CFRDC) is expected to result in the development of new tools for computer forensics. These tools will provide countermeasures for computer related crime. The subsequent technology will benefit the law enforcement community on the federal, state and local levels.

Computer forensics is the application of the principles and practice of computer science and engineering to obtain information relevant to both the illegal use of a computer and/or the use of a computer to support illegal activities. This information may be used to reconstruct corrupted data files, recover compromised information systems and support prosecution of potential criminal activity.

"The Air Force will benefit from the cooperative agreement by learning about CFRDC research activities in computer forensics for law enforcement and applying that knowledge to military research in related fields," said Joseph Giordano, program manager in the directorate's Defensive Information Warfare Branch.

Utica College students and faculty will gain insight into the military's unique computer forensic research program. They will be able to apply that knowledge to CFRDC research supporting federal agencies and increase the center's accessibility to Air Force researchers in the computer forensics area.

The laboratory and college are joined by the National Institute of Justice Northeast Regional Technology Center at the Griffiss Business & Technology Park in investigating current technology developments and planning future computer technology research. This research will be of use in satisfying requirements of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. Wetstone Technologies of Ithaca is also participating in the research as part of the CFRDC. @